

Bluntly Put- Kent Opera Leads the Way in Knife Crime Prevention for Knife Crime Awareness Week 2025

This Knife Crime Awareness Week 2025, Divert and Bounce Back is proud to stand alongside Kent Opera, a pioneering force in youth engagement, education, and crime prevention, as they take meaningful action to tackle the root causes of knife crime in our communities.

At the centre of Kent Opera's work is "Bluntly Put", a bold campaign in partnership with Amari Rae Foundation offering fully funded Knife & Offensive Weapons Awareness Workshops to secondary schools across London. These are not traditional classroom sessions — they are dynamic, interactive workshops led by expert facilitators with frontline experience in youth work and crime prevention.

Each session is designed to:

- Build understanding of the legal, emotional, and social consequences of knife crime
- Empower students with the confidence to make informed and safe decisions
- Promote empathy, self-awareness, and open discussion
- Encourage critical thinking and positive peer engagement

Kent Opera's approach is rooted in prevention through education — giving young people the knowledge and space to reflect before they are exposed to risky situations. These workshops are tailored to resonate with young audiences and are based on real-life experiences that highlight the dangers of carrying a weapon.

The campaign follows the success of "Lives Not Knives" in 2023, which saw restorative workshops delivered to young people in London. That initiative culminated in the creation of Kofi's Story — a powerful short film based on true events. This moving narrative is now used in schools and community settings, often accompanied by facilitated discussions to deepen understanding and spark honest dialogue.

As Knife Crime Awareness Week 2025 unfolds, Kent Opera invites school leaders, safeguarding leads, and educators in Kent to join the movement. With limited funding available, now is the time to secure a free workshop and make a tangible difference in your school and community.

